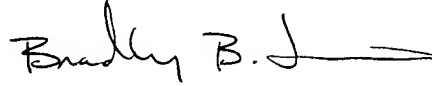


Serial No.: 10/007,125

REMARKS

No new matter has been added. The Applicants again request entry of the amendments as set forth in the Appendices hereto prior to examination of the application on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Version of Abstract With Markings Showing Changes Made
~~Version of Amended Claims With Markings Showing Changes Made~~



VERSION OF ABSTRACT WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

A laser marking system for IC packages including a tray input shuttle assembly[,] and a tray transport borne by a transport actuator for moving a tray carrier carrying a tray of unmarked packaged ICs received from the tray input shuttle assembly to a tray output shuttle assembly over a transport actuator path extending under an open-bottomed enclosure of a laser marking station. The tray input shuttle assembly, laser marking station and tray output shuttle assembly each has associated therewith a lift mechanism for raising and lowering the tray carrier relative to the transport so as to facilitate tray loading of the tray carrier from the tray input shuttle assembly, insertion and withdrawal of the tray carrier bearing a tray of packaged ICs for marking into and out of the marking station and unloading of a tray of marked packaged ICs from the tray carrier to the output shuttle assembly.

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VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS
WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

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1. (Amended) A system for marking IC packages carried in trays, comprising:
a transport actuator;
a tray carrier carried by, and unsecured to, the transport actuator for receiving trays of IC packages;
an input shuttle assembly for providing the trays of IC packages to the tray carrier;
an output shuttle assembly for receiving the trays of IC packages from the tray carrier; and
a laser marking station disposed adjacent a portion of the transport actuator between the input shuttle assembly and the output shuttle assembly.

23. (Amended) The system of claim 20, further including a vertically extendable and retractable lift mechanism located within the [at least one] tray stack volume.

24. (Amended) The system of claim 23, wherein the transport actuator extends from a tray stack volume of the input shuttle assembly to a tray stack volume of the output shuttle[,] assembly, and the lift mechanisms are configured to engage and vertically move a tray located in the tray stack volumes without contacting a tray transport on which the tray carrier is disposed.

35. (Amended) The system of claim 34, wherein the dual-action stop mechanism comprises a second [air] dual-action air cylinder adjacent the drive block and having an extendable and retractable shaft.

36. (Amended) The system of claim 35, wherein the extendable and retractable [the] shaft is horizontally extendable and retractable and located in a same horizontal plane [to]as the drive block.

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42. (Amended) The system of claim 41, wherein the tray carrier includes a portion of reduced width and the side plates include extensions thereon configured to engage the tray carrier at [said]the portion of reduced width.

54. (Amended) The system of claim 53, wherein the tray carrier includes a portion of reduced width defined by mutually longitudinally coextensive elongated notches in parallel sides thereof, and the side plates of the lift structure include extensions thereon configured to engage the tray carrier at [said]the portion of reduced width, the extensions being sized to substantially prevent light leakage from the enclosure in a vicinity of the reduced width portion of the tray carrier.

66. (Amended) The system of claim 65, wherein the tray carrier includes a plurality of downwardly facing notches in the two parallel sides thereof.

67. (Amended) The system of claim 66, wherein the plurality of downwardly facing notches comprises two notches on each of the two parallel sides of the tray carrier.
